

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 23 and 25-27 are pending in the application, and each was rejected. By this paper, claims 1-4, 7, 11, 14, 16, 23 and 25 are amended, and new claim 28 is added. Based on the following, consideration of the new and amended claims, and reconsideration of the remaining rejected claims, are requested.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-16, 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that each of the independent claims—i.e., claims 1, 11 and 23—appears to present a scope of coverage that is "contradictory".

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments and explanation, and have amended each of the independent claims accordingly. Moreover, a number of the dependent claims are also amended to further clarify the scope of the claims and eliminate any potentially confusing language. It is believed that each of the claims meets all of the limitations of Section 112, second paragraph, and that each is allowable as written.

New Claims

By this paper, claim 28 is added. Claim 28 depends directly from claim 1, with no intervening claims. As discussed above, independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and therefore claim 28 is also believed to be allowable.

Because of claims previously canceled, Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for new claim 28; however, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies, LLC Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 22 September 2008

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